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DEPUTATION TO HIS GRACE

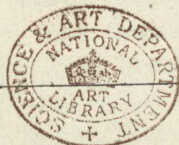
THE

DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH;

LORD PRESIDENT, AND TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LORD ROBERT MONTAGU, M.P., VICE
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE

EAST LONDON MUSEUM.



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REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS AT A DEPUTATION TO HIS
GRACE THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH, LORD PRESIDENT
OF THE COUNCIL, AND TO THE RIGHT. HON. LORD
ROBERT MONTAGU, M.P., THE VICE - PRESIDENT,
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12, 1868.

The Deputation comprised the following noblemen and gentlemen :—

Viscount Enfield, M.P., Lord Eustace Cecil, M.P., Hon. A. Kinnaird, M.P., A. S. Ayrton, Esq., M.P., J. J. Briscoe, Esq., M.P., Sir R. J. Murchison, K.C.B., C. J. B. Aldis, Esq., M.D., Sir Charles Lyell, Bart., Lieut.-Col. Thompson (Tower Hamlets Rifle Brigade), Professor Warrington W. Smyth, President of the Geological Society, Professor J. Morris, the Revs. J. G. Cumming, M.A., F.G.S., T. J. Rowsell, Septimus Hansard, J. R. Green, Dr. Hewlett, John Kennedy, J. Bramley Moore, J. M. Patteson, W. Pankridge, and Henry Solly, Dr. Millar, Charles Reed, Esq., F.S.A., R. H. Ashford, Esq., Antonio Brady, Esq., John Bennett, Esq., Rev. G. W. McGill, R. Brooks, Esq., E. Charrington, Esq. (representing Messrs. Charrington), J. M. Clabon, Esq., Charles Critchett, Esq., John Day, Esq., J. Donovan, Esq., Passmore Edwards, Esq., W. Engleburtt, Esq., Edward Eagles, Esq., Frederick Godwin, Esq., George Howell, Esq., R. Letchford, Esq., Charles Lowe, Esq., W. R. T. Lane, Esq., William Larkins, Esq. (Secretary of the Metropolitan Educational Society), Benjamin Marriott, Esq., W. G. Mountain, Esq., W. L. Newcombe, Esq., N. Powell, Esq., and A. Powell, Esq., (representing Messrs. Powell, Whitefriars), Rev. J. B. Reed, S. Goodwin Esq., Edward Bueldra, Esq., James L. Shuter, Esq., W. R. Selway, Esq., W. W. Smyth, Esq., Thomas Spwath, Esq., C.E., John Plummer, Esq.,

R. Voss, Esq., Vestry Clerk, Bethnal Green, H. Wallace, Esq., P. Wright Esq., T. Whittington, Esq., W. Williams, Esq., E. Walker, Esq., Mr. Alderman Stone, and Mr. Thomas Conolly, &c., &c., &c.

The following are the names of some of those who were unable to attend, but who have expressed their interest in this matter:—

The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G., Lord DeLisle and Dudley. The Very Rev. Dean Stanley, the Right Hon. H. A. Bruce, M.P., Sir W. H. Bodkin, Kt., the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, R. Samuelson, Esq., M.P., Horace Mann, Esq., Sir W. Page-Wood, V.C., J. C. Pakington, Esq., J. Clarke, Esq., F.S.A., Sir Francis Grant, Kt., R.A., R. P. Roupell, Esq., Q.C., F.S.A., Rev. E. A. Abbott, M.A. (City of London School), Robert Charles, Esq., T. Twining, Esq. (gives £100), the Dean of Ely, the Archdeacon of Ely, the Rev. Nicholas Brady, M.A., T. F. Buxton, Esq., (Trueman, Hanbury, Buxton, and Co.,) Henry Hoare, Esq. (gives £100), Austin Layard, Esq., M.P., the Hon. Wm. Cowper, M.P., J. Selwin-Ibbetson, Esq., M.P., P. L. Neve-Foster, Esq., Society of Arts, A. J. B. Beresford-Hope, Esq., M.P., Harry Chester, Esq., Dr. Mann, Salisbury-Butler, Esq., M.P., Thomas White, Esq., J.P. (gives £100), Lieut.-Colonel Chas. Capper, M.P., S. W. Silver, Esq., Francis S. Powell, Esq., M.P., Alderman Lusk, M.P., &c., &c., &c.

Mr. AYRTON, the member for the borough introduced the deputation, and said: I have been requested by the gentlemen who are present to bring the subject, which has brought them here, under your notice, because they think it of great importance that they should press upon your Grace the necessity of carrying through the Upper House the Bill which was passed by the House of Commons for the purpose of facilitating the establishment of a Museum of Science and Art in the Eastern part of London. I need not go much into the circumstances, because, of course, your Grace is familiar with them; but still I may point out that this is not a new matter. It is a want that we have to deal with, which has long been felt by all persons who have taken an interest in the welfare of the great body of the working people of the Metropolis. It is so long ago as 1851 that after the Great Exhibition had called attention to this question, a number of gentlemen met together and advocated the importance of establishing some Industrial Museum, in the parts of London where the working classes chiefly dwell. Their labours were unfortunately not successful, and the thing hung fire. But in 1860 another determined effort

was made for the same purpose, and the MARQUESS OF WESTMINSTER came to the East End of London; a Public Meeting was held, and he offered a very munificent donation if the wealthier employers of labour in the East End of London would meet him in the same spirit. Unfortunately, they did not respond to that suggestion of his, and that effort therefore was not immediately successful. In 1862 the subject was again mooted by Mr. Antonio Brady, a gentleman who is present; and again in 1864 Lord Shaftesbury and other noblemen and gentlemen took up the question, and pressed it upon public attention, but they were not so successful as one could have desired. Now the ground on which I may say these efforts were not successful I believe was this,—that if you have the Museum built in an inhabited part of London you must, of course, pay a very large sum for the ground on which it is to be erected, if it is to be put in any position adequate to the occasion. Well, that involves an enormous expense, which stares everybody in the face at the first burst of the question. It is a sum perhaps of £10,000 or £20,000 to be paid for the land before anything can be done. Therefore, there was great difficulty in dealing with that. If, on the other hand, you go into remote parts of London where land is cheap, where you can get it, you do not accomplish your object, because then everybody has so far to walk that the Museum would not become a place of resort: it may be a place of excursion, but that is a very different thing from a place of real resort for the use of the people. That was the state of the question till some of the persons locally interested began to examine this difficulty, and at last we had a meeting in 1864, when it was proposed and suggested that Bethnal Green was a space which seemed to have been reserved by a combination of circumstances almost providential for this particular object, because it was a piece of ground which had been long held under a charity which was useless and unprofitable, namely, a charity to keep it as an open space,—not to use it necessarily as a garden, but merely to keep it enclosed, open so far as the air, but not open as regards public resort. It was merely to be a space of free air. The result has been that for 200 years or so it was kept as an enclosed place, and, as grazing land, produced a revenue of £4 a year, and there was an ultimate charity that the income of this field should be given in doles to people who resided nearest to it. That did not seem to be a useful employment of the land. It had become an unnecessary employment of it, because a great open space had been provided by

Parliament close by it in the shape of Victoria Park—at least, at no great distance—for the purposes of recreation quite near enough. Then the question was whether we could not make this land available as the site of a Museum. I took the liberty of pointing out that there were legal difficulties, but that Parliament, as it had done on other occasions of a similar character, would overcome all difficulties, and enable the Trustees of that land to appropriate it to a more useful purpose. That suggestion was worked upon, but it received a great impulse from Lord Granville, when he occupied the office which your Grace now holds, and he invited persons from all parts of London to meet him. They were to consider what might be done to utilise the structure that was going to be removed at Kensington, and by way of arriving at a practical solution of the question, he said that he would be prepared to receive offers from all parts of London of a site, but the condition of any such proposal must be that the site must be dedicated to the purposes of Science and Art, and the Museum. The only persons who responded to that invitation were the gentlemen who had taken up seriously the suggestion of utilizing the site of Bethnal Green. The worthy Rector of that parish, the Rev. Septimus Hansard, Mr. Antonio Brady, and another gentleman, communicated with Lord Granville on the subject, and proposed to him this site, and accepted for themselves in the first instance all the responsibilities of making that site available for the purposes of a Museum. The department acting upon that proposition have brought the matter under your Grace's auspices to this point, namely, that a Bill has been passed through the House of Commons to enable the Trustees to vest the property in the Rector and the other gentlemen for the purpose of conveying it and dedicating it to the Museum, and handing it over to the Department of Science and Art, so that it would be irrevocably appropriated to the objects in view, under the protection and control of a Public Department, who will prevent it being afterwards abused or perverted to any other purpose. That is the case which we have to present. I will not enter into the merits of it, because there are gentlemen here who understand them much better than we do, but I would really make this remark, that if we look at the wants of London, and you take a radius from the centre of Bethnal Green of a mile and a half, you will embrace in the circle the largest number of the working-classes of the Metropolis you can find within a similar area. If you go further west and put your centre

upon the British Museum and take a similar radius you will perhaps get the densest population around the British Museum having the benefit of that, though not perhaps even to the same extent composed of the working-classes; and if you go still further west, and take a radius of Kensington you will get the smallest number of people, and find them chiefly composed of the wealthiest classes of the community, and in that way you practically cover with Museums the bulk of the Metropolis. But I think that the claims of the East on behalf of the working-classes to have a Museum as a place of continuous resort are very strong, and that they ought to receive the countenance and support of the House of Lords. There are so many gentlemen present, I think I may content myself with explaining the objects of the Deputation, and I am quite sure any one of them will be able, better than myself, to impress them upon your Grace's consideration.

The Hon. A. KINNAIRD, M.P.: I should mention the attention of the Committee of the House of Commons was turned to this, and they strongly recommended the formation of the Museum.

Mr. AYRTON: When was that Committee held?

The Hon. A. KINNAIRD: Four or five years ago.

Mr. ANTONIO BRADY: With your Grace's permission I will ask Thomas Conolly, a working man, to address you Lordships.

Mr. CONOLLY: Your Grace, I attend on this occasion from the fullest conviction that unless our working people in this country are educated we will not be in a position to maintain that supremacy in commerce and manufacture upon which all our other supremacy is based, and I am led to these conclusions from the report of Mr. Samuelson, from the letters of Mr. Vane to Lord Stanley, and from my own observations during a short time I was on the Continent last summer, which I was enabled to do through the agency of the Society of Arts, for which I am very thankful. I did see in the Paris Exhibition that wherever anything useful and substantial had to be manufactured, or other produce, there was nothing to touch English manufacture, but the very moment they enter the domain of art, we seem completely lost. Therefore, I contend, and I am very glad to see, that the nation is arousing itself up to the necessity of educating these working people. But before the nation can avail itself of the good intentions of all classes who have the power now, the working population, who are actually engaged in producing the manufactures and industry of this

country will be overlooked ; and if the commerce is going away to the extent that many people lead us to believe, there will be none left for the educated generation to engage in. I consider, to meet the want immediately, there is nothing, your Grace, so complete as the establishment of branch Museums all over the Metropolis. Everybody acknowledges the beneficial results that the South Kensington Museum had upon the taste and the industry of the country, and surely if we multiply those facilities we shall increase the effect. It is a very excellent thing, no doubt, to have one great concentration of all our models of art, and things of that kind, but those are completely inaccessible to the working classes. The only day available to the workman is Saturday, and by the time he reaches home and has his dinner, and prepares himself to go out in the evening, it will be nearly dark before he can get to the South Kensington Museum. Therefore, I consider in every district of London there ought to be a branch Museum established, adapted to the particular trades of the locality in which it is established. There is nothing in the world more calculated to enlighten the mind of a workman. We are now many of us past the time for entering into primary education and all that sort of thing ; but there are things that we can learn from actual observation, and from comparison, and by practice, which might be easily put within our reach by the governing classes of the country. Now the time has arrived in the history of this country when the working class have not the slightest objection that they should be educated by the Government. The Government who provide us with our education are the people who we elect ourselves ; consequently, we believe our education will be perfectly safe in their hands. Well, then, I never in my lifetime saw such a disposition amongst the working classes of this country to be enlightened as there is at the present time ; and I am sure we have sufficient evidence of it in the fact that 600,000,000 of newspapers are circulated amongst them, and 60,000,000 or 80,000,000 periodicals. I think that the Government ought not to begrudge any little assistance it can give towards the furtherance of those objects, when you take into account that the City of Paris, with half the population, expends £200,000 every year in educating its people. Now, your Grace, it is perfectly clear that an illiterate Englishman can be no match for an enlightened Frenchman or an enlightened Yankee—they are just as good men as we are. The only question arises as regards our education. Therefore, I

contend in a country like this, which has not the power of expanding itself to a great extent, that unless you make one Englishman equal to two of any other country, we shall not be able to hold our own. See, with what liberality the Government will expend money upon every purpose that they think is calculated to maintain the honour and supremacy of the country. If it was necessary to build a thousand ships of war, Government would build them, and Parliament would vote the money, so that the supremacy of the country should be maintained; therefore I contend when our commercial supremacy—upon which all our other supremacy is based—when that is endangered, I consider myself that the Government would act very unwisely by withholding from us any assistance that they could possibly give. I have to remind myself that in this case it is not the Government that has thrown any impediment in our way. I am very pleased to find that, but it is where all the impediments arise—with the lawyers. I think myself, as Mr. Ayrton very nicely said, that Parliament can rise superior to the lawyers, and throw these little technical objections out of the way, and enable the people of Bethnal Green to enjoy the advantage of a Museum in their midst. If the Government does its duty by the working classes of this country you may rest assured there is very little danger of our commercial supremacy; and I consider that if many of those gentlemen who say that the price of labour is too much, and that people restrict their hours of labour too much, and all this sort of thing, if they were to take and put the saddle on the right horse, and show that they have never paid that attention to the education of the people which other nations have done, they would arrive nearer at the exact cause for any decay in our commercial prosperity. I do not like to intrude any further upon your Grace and upon this meeting, but I hope, that your Grace will urge upon the Government and upon the House of Lords the necessity of allowing the Bill to pass.

Mr. BRISCOE: I have just been requested to say a word in behalf of the cause that we are all assembled to promote. I have listened, as we all have, to the remarks which have just been made by our friend who has just spoken, and I really feel I could add nothing to what he has said in order to strengthen the case. I should rather, I believe, weaken the case by saying anything, more than that I cordially give my support as an old member of the House of Commons to this measure. And it is not with the House of Commons, I believe,

that any difficulty exists, and I am glad to find there is none whatever in the case of Her Majesty's Government, for they have, as I understand from their speeches, manifested the greatest possible desire to consult the real interests and welfare of the working classes, not in Bethnal Green or the Metropolis only, but throughout the whole country; and therefore as the Committee have the full support of Her Majesty's Government, I hope and trust from what has passed in this very large meeting that it cannot but have an influence upon the President of the Council, who must have witnessed around him an earnestness of purpose and a desire that that should be accomplished which I believe Her Majesty's Government have fully the power to do. I think I have understood that the Earl of Derby, to whom we look for so much support in this matter—his opinion, I believe, is well known; in fact, the whole of Her Majesty's Government are desirous of supporting this movement. Therefore, I am quite satisfied that they can give no better proof, no more certain proof of the sincerity of the professions which they have made in behalf of the working classes than by giving their support to this Bill, and with that support, I think, those who are present may go away entertaining not the smallest doubt whatever but that the Bill that has passed the House of Commons will also receive the sanction of the House of Lords. I have thus far complied with the wish expressed to me, and I feel that it is totally needless to add anything to what has been already expressed to you by Mr. Conolly, because he seems so thoroughly to understand the real merits of the case, and they could not have been better expressed, I think, than they have been expressed by himself. I am extremely happy to have been enabled to attend here to-day. Upon a previous occasion a meeting was called at the South Kensington Museum, and I then said, I think (Lord Granville was in the chair), that I should be happy in any way in my power to promote the great end which we all have in view. There is no difference of opinion, there is a perfect unanimity here, and I think I may venture to say a perfect unanimity out of this room and out of the Metropolis, throughout the country at large. I most heartily give my humble support to this measure.

The Rev. SEPTIMUS HANSARD: Like Mr. Briscoe, your Grace, I can scarcely add anything to what Mr. Conolly has so well put. But there is one thing I should like to say, which, though at first sight it may seem to contradict, thoroughly confirms what he says. I remember, I think two years ago, mentioning it at a meeting at which

Mr. Layard and the Rt. Hon. W. Cowper were present. I refer to a speech made by Mons. Chevallier on the great increase of the art tendencies of England, in which he stated in the Chamber of Deputies that whereas formerly the French manufacturers of a certain class sent all their patterns to England, now the tables were turned, and the French manufacturers had to apply to England for certain designs, and he attributed that entirely to the influence that the South Kensington Museum had had upon the education of the working classes. I think that is a remarkable fact, and it goes entirely to confirm what Mr. Conolly says, that if the working men of England have a chance to educate themselves in art, they are likely not only to equal but to surpass the intelligent designers among our neighbours the French. But there is another point I will briefly allude to. We must not let it go forth that this is intended especially for Bethnal Green. Some remarks have been made which your Grace has heard before, which seemed to imply that it was rather too much of a good thing to give to one locality, called Bethnal Green, a Museum of this kind. The fact is, it is simply this, as your Grace knows, that is the only site in the East-end that is found desirable, and of course if it is to be in the East-end at all, it must be somewhere—we cannot suspend the Museum in the air. So that the same objection will be made whatever site is selected. I hope it will be understood that this Museum is designed for the whole of the East-end; it is merely accidental that the site is found in Bethnal Green. I will just mention also, which, perhaps, in my position as a Clergyman I am more able to give evidence about than perhaps some others are, that I think one of the great things which is wanted in all our populations is some means of amusement for the people. I cannot help saying, and I say it with all the influence that such a statement may have, coming from a Clergyman, that I do not think you can expect a population to be a moral population if you do not supply them with some kind of amusement, and of course we all know that is an enormous difficulty in London. It is an enormous difficulty at this end of the town, whilst there are so many institutions similar to the one we are now pleading for, situated at the other end of the town. We have our park, but there is another kind of amusement required, combining instruction with the best kind of recreation. This Museum will be of that kind, and I am quite sure every Clergyman and Minister will say what I am now saying, that one of the great wants at the other end of the town is some such institution, which

may tend to elevate the people socially and morally. Part of the programme is, that it shall be open until ten in the evening, and I do sincerely hope if we have it raised there we shall find it will run a very successful competition with the many public houses around there. I am perfectly sure of this, that the working men of the country generally will feel grateful, not only to the Government who inaugurated this plan of putting up Museums in different parts, but they will be most grateful to the more munificent classes of this country, who are so glad at any time to come forward and help a thing of this kind. If the Bill passes the House of Lords, which I hope it will, and I am perfectly sure with the explanation your Grace will be able to give to the House of Lords they will see it from all the possible points of view, and then all we shall have to do is to receive the money and hand it over to Government; and the sum is really so small which we ask, that I cannot but think, knowing the great munificence of gentlemen in the City, and others who support educational movements, that we shall soon be able to see the Museum built.

Mr. ANTONIO BRADY: My duty, your Grace, in the presence of this great company, is to thank you most heartily for receiving us here to day. Our object in coming here has been so admirably expressed by the Member for the Borough that I need not dwell upon that; but I wish to place in your hands a statement which will, I think, give a triumphant answer to all the objections that have been raised. In the first place it is objected that sufficient publicity has not been given to this affair. The paper which I have in my hand, and which I believe is in the hands of all the gentlemen present, is a statement which shows that from the first Exhibition in 1851, this great movement has been in agitation. In the year 1851 the merchants and bankers of the City, headed by Mr. Thomas Hankey, Mr. J. G. Hubbard, the lamented William Cotton, always foremost in every good work, promoted, with Mr. Carr Glyn and others, a Museum, which they wished to be in the City at that time. It failed, like many other subsequent schemes, for want of a site; land in the City was unattainable. In the year 1860 the MARQUESS OF WESTMINSTER presided at a meeting and read a letter from the Right Hon. W. Cowper (who is out of town and not able to be here to-day, though his sympathies are with us), and Lord Ebury, Lord Shaftesbury, and many other noble minded men came down there to promote this great object. They held public meetings—this question has been discussed over and over again in all

the local papers, and I doubt if any subject has been more ventilated amongst the working men at the East-end than this. Nor do I believe any Government ever did any more gracious or far seeing act of wisdom, as has been testified to by that eloquent working man Mr. Conolly, than to promote a cause of this kind, which shall develop the mercantile and art energies of our workmen. While in the race of free trade we are competing with the world, it is necessary we should start fair in the race, and it appears that it is notorious, from the reports we have had before us, from the advance made in other nations as exhibited in the recent International Exhibition, that though we have not yet lost our place in art amongst the other nations, yet that other nations are so treading on our heels that unless we give our artisans the same advantages that foreigners possess, we shall soon lose our place, and trade will suffer in a corresponding degree. Therefore, I think, your Grace, all the recent Governments have, with far-seeing wisdom, fostered schemes like this. I cannot help thinking that this is on the eve of accomplishment. This Bill only wants a little explanation, and I think Lord Redesdale would be the first to advocate the passing of that Bill. I have had the privilege of placing in the hands of your Grace a précis of the deed of purchase which we have executed with the trustees, every one of whom have signed, and we have collated with that—at least Mr. Clabon has kindly done so for us, with his legal accumen—the original deed of trust, and that, I think, has given a most triumphant answer to all the objections raised by Lord Redesdale. I would venture before I sit down to express to your Grace the deep regret which many eminent men who foster this scheme express at being absent to-day. Several of Her Majesty's Ministers who, of course, could not come here as a deputation, have not only given me most cordial letters of approval with the course we are taking, but they have even sent subscriptions. Dean Stanley, the Dean of Ely, and the Archdeacon of Ely have expressed their regret at not being able for to attend. The Hon. Mr. Bruce is away from a very painful circumstance, and Mrs. Bruce wrote to me to say that no one would regret his absence more than he would himself. The fact is he has been telegraphed for to attend, I am afraid, the dying bed of his elder brother. Sir William Page Wood and Sir W. H. Bodkin are detained in Court, and several other leading men are on the Ritual Commission, which meets this afternoon. Sir Francis Grant, the eminent President of the Royal Academy, A. J. Beresford-Hope

Esq., M.P., have sent similar messages; Thomas Twining, Esq., is unhappily too ill to attend, but has given £100; the Buxtons and Hanburys are detained by a wedding in the family; in fact, there is but, I may say, but one echo of regret from them all. They wish God speed to this meeting with all their hearts, and only regret they have not been able to be here to day. I am sure I only express the feeling of the whole company in thanking your Grace for having giving us permission to be here to day.

MR. AYRTON: We are extremely obliged to your Grace for the attention which you have given to this Deputation.

The Duke of MARLBOROUGH: Gentlemen,—I do not know that it will be necessary for me to say much in order to inform the Deputation of what are the views which Her Majesty's Government entertain upon this subject. Those views, I think, have been pretty clearly indicated by the course which Government has already taken, and I am happy to be able to inform the Deputation that the whole matter is, I think, in as clear and as satisfactory a position as it well can be. The plan which was originally proposed for the purpose of establishing a Museum at the East End of London was one which was very fully considered at a Meeting at which Lord Granville, my predecessor, presided in the year 1865. At that time, it will be in the recollection of the Deputation, a very strong opinion was expressed that it was expedient for the benefit of the working-classes, that a Museum or Museums should be established in the different parts of London, north-east and south. The result of that meeting was, I believe, that a certain time was allowed the various districts of London to apply for the use of the part of the structure which was being taken down at South Kensington, and which was not likely to be used for other purposes, in order that they might obtain it at a nominal price, and it might be made available for the purpose of erection of Museums in those parts of London. After that period had elapsed it was found that difficulties had arisen in regard to two districts of London who were there represented, the north and south, but that a very favourable offer had been made through Mr. Brady by the East of London for the purpose of erecting this Museum in that part. I cannot say how much the public must be indebted to the exertions of those gentlemen who have put themselves to so much trouble, and exerted themselves in so praiseworthy a manner for purpose of obtaining a plot of ground on which to erect this

Museum, which I trust will be of such immense advantage to the working-classes. That being the case, the Government of the day took the matter up very warmly, and a correspondence in the years 1866 and 1867 has been going on between the Department of Science and Art, and the Treasury, for the purpose of obtaining the sanction of the Treasury for the expenditure of a sum of public money for the purpose of the erection of this Museum. I believe that an estimate of £20,000 has been taken as the probable expense of the erection of the Museum, but a sum has been already voted by Parliament of £5000 as a preliminary sum, which was to be expended during the course of the present year. The gentlemen here are aware that difficulties arose in regard to the conveyance of the site, those difficulties are of a technical, legal nature, which it was necessary to overcome by means of the introduction of a Bill. Had it not been for those difficulties the whole thing would have gone on with the sanction and approval of the Government who have fully appreciated the necessities of this case. But as the case exists, these difficulties having arisen, a Bill has become necessary, and that Bill was introduced at the earliest moment that it could be introduced during the exceptional Session of Parliament, last November, and I am happy to say it passed through the House of Commons. Upon its arrival in the House of Lords some difficulties have arisen in regard to the Bill passing through its last stage as an unopposed Private Bill before the Chairman of Committees. I may say with reference to the Chairman of Committees that there is no public officer I believe who endeavours to discharge his duty to the public with greater conscientiousness than the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords; and I believe he has only been fulfilling what he believes to be conscientiously his duty in examining every Bill of whatever nature relating to public trusts that comes before him. Certainly he has raised some difficulties with regard to this question which I by no means think, when the matter comes to be properly explained and understood, will be insuperable; and I have very little doubt that that measure will pass through the House of Lords with the assistance, which it certainly will have, of the Government, in as satisfactory a manner as it has through the House of Commons. I can only say gentlemen, if any advantage could occur from this temporary hitch in regard to the passing of this measure, it would have been from its having been the occasion of eliciting so large

a renewed expression of public approval of a measure of this nature. I can assure the gentlemen present the Government fully appreciate the necessities of the case—those necessities with regard to the technical education of the people which have been so very well expressed by Mr. Conolly, who so ably represents the labouring classes of this country. And I assure the gentlemen present that as far as opportunities occur, as far as the Government acting in accordance with the spirit of the times, and with due regard to public economy and public interest, can promote those great objects, I believe that there is no Government that could be brought into existence that would more fully understand the importance of these subjects and desire to see them more fully carried out. I can only say the Government will endeavour to expedite this measure through the House of Lords, and I cannot conceive that there will be any insuperable difficulty to its passing, and so the money which has been taken already on account being expended within the present year.

The Deputation then withdrew.